# Best Management Practices

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



**Pondberry** 

Lindera melissifolia

Common name • Pondberry Scientific name • Lindera melissifolia Federal status • Endangered State status • Endangered

# **Ecology**

Pondberry, also referred to as Southern spicebush, is a moderate-sized shrub found in swampy, sandy depressions of lowland forests. In order to thrive, this plant requires poorly drained sandy soils in heavily shaded areas. Pondberry produces blooms from March to early April before its leaves emerge. It is able to produce new plants either vegetatively, by sending out rhizomes, or by the production of seeds in late summer. Currently only one known population occurs in the state in southeastern Ripley County. It also occurs in adjacent northern Arkansas and in several other southeastern states.

### **Reasons for Decline**

Pondberry populations declined as a result of the clearing of bottomland forests and the drainage of wetlands for agricultural use. The seasonally inundated sandy swales where it occurs in Missouri are particularly subject to alterations of the local water table.

## **Specific Recommendations**

- → Survey for this species prior to altering wooded swales or bottomland forests in southeastern Ripley Co.
- → Maintain water quality and water table levels in southeastern Ripley Co.
- → Avoid herbicide use at any known site.
- → Avoid logging at any known site.

#### **Information Contacts**

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#### Disclaimer

These Best Management Practices were prepared by the Missouri Department of Conservation with assistance from other state agencies, contractors, and others to provide guidance to those people who wish to voluntarily act to protect wildlife and habitat. Compliance with Best Management Practices is not required by the Missouri wildlife and forestry law nor by any regulation of the Missouri Conservation Commission. Other federal, state or local laws may affect construction practices.